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# ON THE METHODS OF STUDYING EL TORO ARTIFACTS

It is obvious that the currently available El Toro artifacts (assuming their authenticity) were removed from their discovery sites without scientific archaeological support and stratigraphic analysis, which significantly complicates their objective study and dating.

Taking this important circumstance into account, when studying the El Toro artifacts it is necessary and possible to use **a range of research methods**, including:

- Radiocarbon dating of organic remains;
- Thermoluminescence dating of ceramics;
- Chemical analysis of the composition of organics, ceramics and metals;
- Microanalysis of patina and traces of processing of products;
- Collection and analysis of evidence of artifact finds;
- Comparative analysis of artifacts.

None of these methods is “absolute” proof, but together, complementing each other, they, in our opinion, can help to get closer to solving the mystery of unusual artifacts.

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## 1. Radiocarbon dating (carbon test)

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As previously reported, in 2012, with the assistance of Austrian researcher Klaus Dohn, radiocarbon dating of two El Toro artifacts was conducted. The test subjects were samples of the organic adhesive substance with which the stone fragments of the artifact were joined together.

Considering that, according to our assessment based on the analysis of images of more than 1000 El Toro artifacts, the number of stone products using the gluing technique in the total array of artifacts is approximately 10-15%, conducting radiocarbon dating in this case is entirely justified and promising.

Another use of carbon dating for El Toro artifacts is dating organic residues that may have been preserved in artifacts, such as smoking pipes. From private sources (reported by Brett Girlow), we know of a carbon dating of tobacco residues preserved inside one of the stone smoking pipes found on the El Toro site. The age of this organic material was estimated at approximately 5,000 years.

It should be noted that despite the shortcomings and criticism of the radiocarbon dating method (04), it has generally proven its effectiveness as the leading physical-chemical method of direct dating of organic matter in archeology. Radiocarbon dating has been successfully used in research practice for many years, constantly improving both technically and methodologically (01-03).

## 1. Thermoluminescent dating of ceramics (TL-test).

The presence of ceramics in the El Toro artifacts allows us to apply this important method of direct dating of archaeological objects. As is known, this method uses the measurement of energy emitted by a mineral sample as a result of heating. In the case of ceramics, the results of the TL test allow us to obtain an approximate date of its manufacture by firing (at a temperature of at least 550-600 degrees Celsius). The

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widespread use of the TL method in the practice of dating ancient objects has revealed its certain shortcomings and limitations (calibration problems, the possibility of falsifying the result, a relatively large error, geological limitations of dating for individual regions). At the same time, in the case of El Toro artifacts, the prospects for using the TL method are determined by the fundamental possibility of establishing the very fact of the antiquity of these objects.

### 3. Chemical analysis of materials.

The study of the chemical composition will not allow us to directly determine the age of the artifact, but nevertheless provides important characteristics for its indirect assessment. For example, in 2013, a chemical analysis of two ceramic artifacts of El Toro was conducted in Mexico, which revealed a number of features of the composition of the ceramics, indicating their ancient age. For El Toro artifacts, identification of the composition of the adhesive substance by infrared spectrography, and the conduct of a spectral analysis of precious metals may also be promising.

**4. Microanalysis of traces of patina and processing of El Toro artifacts using a microscope** allows in many cases to reliably detect modern fakes of artifacts (artificial patina, traces of mechanical or laser processing, etc.). The results of such analysis of individual El Toro artifacts have been repeatedly reported by Dr. Sanchez, founder of the Mexican public organization Nahui Ollin.

We believe that the results of the various analyses of the El Toro artifacts should ultimately lead to the implementation of comprehensive professional archaeological studies of the unique El Toro hill complex, which holds perhaps one of the most significant secrets of human history.

#### Literature:

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### LAST NEWS



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5.V.J. Bortolot, Ph.D. *Thermoluminescence Dating of Art Object.* Bortolot Daybreak Corporation.

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